

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 037937

65

ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SSO-00 L-03 COME-00 /017 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W-GADIES:DFE

APPROVED BY AF/W-TWMSMITH

EB/IFD/OIA- TBRODERICK (SUBS)

AF/EPS-RDUNCAN (SUBS)

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O 172227Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 037937

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, DM, US

SUBJECT: BENIN GOVERNMENT LETTERS TO TEXACO AND MOBIL

REF: A) STATE 35259; B) COTONOU 247

1. AS OF FEB 13, US HEADQUARTERS OFFICES OF MOBIL AND TEXACO REPORTED TO DEPT THAT THEY WERE NOT AWARE OF RECEIPT BY THEIR OFFICES IN ABIDJAN OF LETTERS FROM BENIN GOVT REGARDING INVITATION TO NEGOTIATE CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION ANY TIME AFTER FEB. 20. PLEASE CHECK WITH LOCAL OFFICES OF MOBIL AND TEXACO TO VERIFY THAT LETTERS HAVE INDEED BEEN RECEIVED, AND WHAT RESPONSE, IF ANY, HAS BEEN GIVEN THE BENINESE.

2. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH MOBIL AND TEXACO, EMBASSY SHOULD INFORMALLY CONVEY DEPT'S VIEW THAT WE HOPE BOTH FIRMS RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY TO INVITATION TO BEGIN TALKS AFTER FEB 20. AFTER 14 MONTHS DELAY ON THE PART OF THE GPRB IN SENDING THESE LETTERS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE AMERICAN FIRMS SHOULD PUT THEMSELVES IN A POSITION TO BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY FURTHER DELAY. MOBIL AND TEXACO SHOULD THUS BE PREPARED TO VISIT COTONOU ASAP AFTER FEB 20.

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3. PLEASE ADVISE. INGERSOLL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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